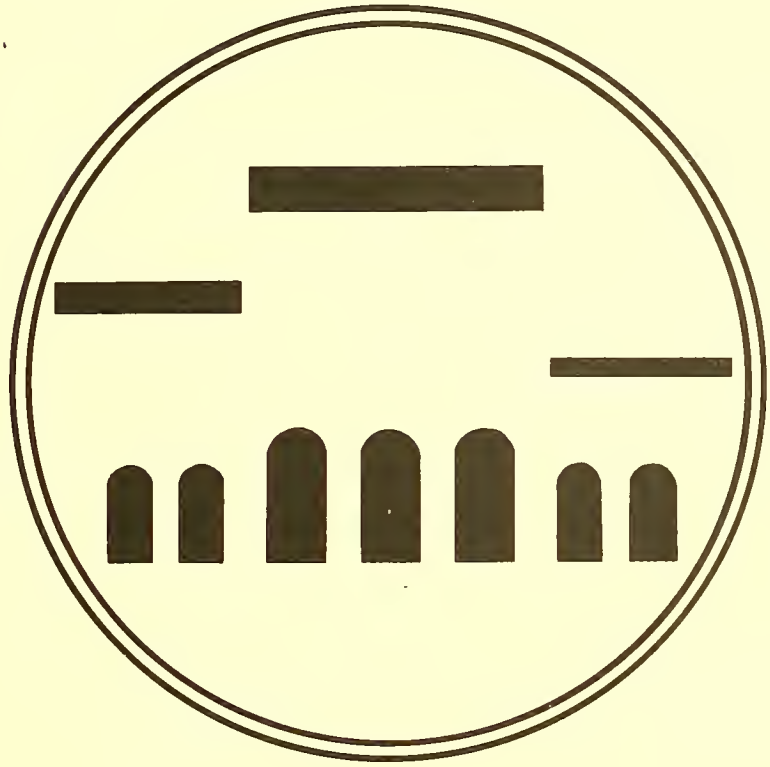
# The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 31 No. 1-2 Spring-Summer 1981



## RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

## THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' dues and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other material which could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

## THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by The Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston Texas 77001, as a record of Fondren Library and Friends activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.
Lauren Brown, Acting Editor; Virginia Innis, Associate Editor. Editorial Committee: Dr. Wilfred S. Dowden, Ms. Mary Dennis, Mrs. Diana Hobby, Mrs. Sally M. Squire.

*Photographs by James Aronovsky and Doug Killgore.*

## FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

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*Displayed on the front cover is the Fondren Library logo, a design offered by Kenneth W. Miller — in conjunction with a library logo competition in 1979.*

## A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

July, 1981

The Board of Directors of the Friends decided not to hold the Annual Meeting this year. It is usually held in June, but there were a number of conflicts which made it impossible to select a suitable date. Accordingly, we present this brief summary of 1980-1981 activities.

The Friends' programs this past year were varied and enthusiastically received by the Members. A reception was held for the Fondren Library staff at the start of the school year. During Homecoming, a reception in the Woodson Research Center, co-sponsored by The Friends and the Rice Engineering Alumni, honored Jennings A. Massingill '42 and included an exhibit depicting Massingill's work in the development of the steam turbine generator. Late in November, Rice art history professor Walter M. Widrig lectured on the Rice Archaeological Expedition to Latium, conducted for the last few summers on the via Gabina near Rome. In February "An Afternoon of Musical Entertainment Featuring Gilbert and Sullivan" was held for members and guests by the Friends and the Shepherd Society, and during the spring, the Rice Players held a special performance of "Antigone" for Friends and guests.

Perhaps the most rewarding project of the year was the conclusion of the purchase of the Julian S. Huxley papers. Final payment was made during May for acquiring the papers of Huxley (1887-1975), who was a faculty member at Rice at the time of its opening in 1912.

Memberships increased by about 50, bringing our roster to almost 500 members. Donations, solicited in six giving categories from $10 Rice student memberships to $500 benefactor memberships, correspondingly increased over the prior years. The Friends' gifts and memorials fund also received in excess of $65,000 this year.

The end of the year also means the beginning of a new one and the appointment of a new board. Names of new members who will serve a three-year term until 1984 are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Karl Doerner | Nancy Eubank |
| Will Dowden | Russ Pitman |
| Margo Downey | Bob Strawn |
| Connie Ericson | |

Officers for the 1981-82 year will be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Tom Smith | President |
| Margo Downey | Vice-President, Membership |
| John Cabaniss | Vice-President, Programs |
| Sally Squire | Secretary |
| John Heard | Treasurer |

We believe 1980-1981 has been a productive and exciting year for the Friends and the Board is looking forward to providing continued support and sponsoring new activities for the benefit of the Fondren Library.

Cordially,

Walter Baker
President

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# THE FONDREN LIBRARY: A PERSPECTIVE

Samuel M. Carrington, Jr.

As I began preparing this report to you on the state of the Fondren Library, the Rice *Thresher* published a two-part feature entitled "The Library: A History of Neglect?" Not the perennial, uninformed exposé deploring the condition of the library at Rice but rather an objective effort to situate the Fondren in both a campus and a national context, the two articles in the series evoked memories of two and a half years ago when my expectations for a leisurely Christmas break were shattered by then Provost Frank Vandiver's request that I become Acting University Librarian within two weeks. Prior to that moment I, like many of my colleagues, had been an active patron who, faculty critics to the contrary, had been well served by the Fondren's research collection but who had no appreciation and comprehension of the complexities surrounding the administration of and the operations in a major research library. Accepting the position with a certain degree of naïveté, I found myself thrust into a volatile world of change, the rapidity of which precludes qualifying it as evolutionary. I also quickly discovered that it was a world whose use of acronyms rivaled that of the Federal Government (ALA, AACR2, ARL, RLG, OCLC, etc.).

Our age has been incorrectly called the Age of the Computer. More appropriately, it is the Age of Information which replaced in the 1960's the Industrial Age and in which the computer is rapidly becoming the primary vehicle of storage and transmittal. In its broadest context the Information Industry, of which libraries form an integral part, employs a majority of the American work force and accounts for over 50% of the G.N.P. It is from this optic that we can state categorically that, together with society, libraries and their users are participating willingly or unwillingly in one of those events in the history of Western civilization whose impact is as momentous and as revolutionary on our lives as Gutenburg's invention of the printing press.

More than at any other time in the recorded history of man, the collection and dissemination of information has become of tantamount importance to the continued advancement of the quality of life. The discipline-oriented or one-field research prevalent prior to 1945 has yielded to problem-oriented research in which solutions to broadly based problems must draw upon many varied and heretofore unrelated disciplines. No longer can the traditional card catalog, bibliographies, and abstracts — essential library tools of the 1940's — meet the requirements of this radical shift in research emphasis. Because of their special needs scientists and scholars as well as businessmen and other professionals have demanded of the information specialist new approaches to organizing and accessing an ever increasing volume of information.

Along with a new orientation in research the Age of Information has witnessed a veritable explosion in printed material and data. As the frontiers of knowledge have broadened so has the information which fuels this expansion; in fact the two — knowledge and information — interdependently feed each other in a seemingly never ending, upward spiral. This point is graphically illustrated when one considers that between 1960 and 1980 scholarly publications in the United States have risen from 3,000 to 15,000 monographs per year while internationally the number of serial titles has increased from 20,000 to over 50,000. Consequently, new classifications have appeared for new fields and new formats for storage have been and are being developed for what would otherwise be an unmanageable volume.

At the center of this changing, turbulent world are libraries, especially the research libraries at major universities, whose primary functions — namely the acquisition, classification, storage, and retrieval of information — and traditional approaches to these functions appear to be faltering under the burdens placed on them by the explosions in information and technology. Adding to these strains has been the pernicious ravage of inflation on the book dollar with price increases ranging from 400% to 800% (depending on the academic discipline) during the past decade. Although book budgets, including that of the Fondren, have risen precipitously during this period, no real increase in the rate of collection growth has been realized. Incapable and/or unwilling to acknowledge the new realities, many libraries and their university administrations have made little or no attempt to find meaningful solutions and to assume the new and important role which society has forced upon them. What response has been made to these challenges has frequently been timid and myopic. Still pervading the thinking

of many librarians and their faculties is the quaint notion of functional independence and self-sufficiency in a research library — an economically unattainable goal as well as a goal which is inconsistent with the character of research itself. In addition there is the tendency to cling tenaciously and exclusively to the cherished icon of Western man that is the physical book — this despite the fact that in certain fields of knowledge print and paper techology (which programs paper with high acid content to self-destruct in fifty or so years) is becoming as primitive as the pre-Caxtonian handcopying of manuscripts. Finally, only recently have some library administrations begun to pay attention to fund and resource management.

With this atmosphere and background in mind I wish to outline the Fondren's activities during the past two years and to discuss how it and the Rice Administration are preparing to meet successfully the challenges posed by the Age of Information and its accompanying technology. At the end of the present fiscal year, operating on an annual budget of approximately $3,000,000 (up threefold from FY 1970-71), the Fondren Library will contain a balanced collection of over 1,100,000 cataloged and uncataloged volumes; 1,300,000 microforms; some 43,000 maps and atlases; and nearly 10,000 current serial titles. This research collection supports but 25 doctoral programs, and the book budget is not fettered by such library-intensive professional programs as Law, Medicine, and Education. On an annual basis a staff of thirty-two professional and seventy-three para-professional librarians processes some 40,000 new books (monographs and serials) and 100,000 microforms; circulates approximately 170,000 books (with another 690,000 being used in-house); and fields over 30,000 reference questions. There are 600,000 entries per year into the building (110,000 into the Reserve Reading Room) and 8,000 borrowers of record.

The single most important development in the Fondren over the past two years has been the joining in 1979 of the AMIGOS Bibliographic Network in OCLC. Thanks to donation of funds for start-up costs (equipment, installation, initial membership fees, etc.) by the Friends of Fondren Library, over 90% of all new material is cataloged more quickly, cheaply, efficiently and accurately through the national computerized data base developed by OCLC. Procedurally, the bibliographic data of a given title are called up on a terminal through one of several access points (LC, ISBN, ISSN number; author, title; etc.); the terminal operator quickly verifies the information, writes down the call number for the markers, and signals the OCLC headquarters to produce the required cataloged cards.

The process is completed within a matter of minutes. Ten days later, the cards for the books cataloged that day arrive alphabetized for filing in the public catalog.

Elsewhere in Technical Services, order and funding reports and procedures have been streamlined and made more efficient, thereby enabling the staff to manage better the some dozen book funds and to take advantage of brokers' discounts. Most gratifying have been the gifts in kind from the Fondren's many supporters. Most important of these gifts was that of over 6,000 books and journals by Mr. John Wright, an alumnus who has amassed over a period of forty years one of the outstanding private collections on Southern and Western U.S. History. A description of this gift, which contains many rare and hard-to-obtain items and which represents only a small portion of Mr. Wright's collection, will be forthcoming in a later issue of the *Flyleaf*. In addition to the Wright gift the Fondren received last year some 13,000 other books as gifts of which 20% was added to the collection. Finally, through gifts and exchanges the library added 1400 serial subscriptions to its holdings. Gifts in kind, be they monographs or serials, have a positive impact on the book budget in two ways: first, those titles which are added to the collection free up funds for purchase elsewhere; secondly, the duplicates not needed can be sold and those funds are used for other purchases.

With special funds provided by the Rice Administration the Fondren installed in August 1979 a CLSI LIBS 100 Circulation System, and for the first time since 1977 the library achieved control over items being circulated while realizing some savings in personnel. The system, whose vendor is one of the leading manufacturers of automated library systems, sends overdue notices on a daily basis (including the calculation of fines); blocks delinquent patrons' accounts; permits inquiries of books by call number, author or title; provides information on what items are being currently circulated to what patrons; and furnishes all manner of statistics (i.e. number of times a given book is circulated; circulation by discipline, or academic department. This last information is becoming most important in our collection management efforts). By the end of this fiscal year the circulation data base will contain over 100,000 book records.

A major reorganization occurred with the decision to combine the Reference and Collection Development Departments. The results have been to offer to the Rice Community a greater breadth and depth in patron services. As presently structured, there are seven subject specialists — one in Architecture, two each in Humanities and Social Sciences, and one each in Science and Engineering (Music is handled separately by the Music Librarian and his staff). In addition to assisting patrons at the Reference Desk, these specialists have the responsibility of drawing up with the various academic departments collection development profiles which permit our vendors to forward on approval or firm order only those books and monographs in series identified with the research and instructional focuses of each faculty member as well as of each department. At the same time these profiles permit the librarians in their review of book catalogs to signal to professors specific titles which may be of interest to them. Finally, the subject specialists review all orders and monitor expenditures of departmental allocations in an effort to manage funds efficiently and to assure that we receive all orders as quickly as possible.

With the recent growth of the Shepherd School of Music, activity in the Music Library has increased significantly and has required that we double the number of listening posts. In order to keep friends and patrons informed of new accessions and programs, the Fondren and the Shepherd School of Music began in 1980 funding a newsletter, *Rice Notes*, which is published irregularly during the year. It is also gratifying to note that on-going support for the Music collection has increased a great deal. The late Dr. Henry Lee Bartlett created an endowment for the support of the Bartlett Beethoven Collection; the Houston Music Guild donated an important collection of chamber music; and more recently, the Shepherd Society completed a highly successful drive to match the Friends' gift of $15,000 to the Music Library for collection enhancement purposes. All of these efforts will help in the goal to build holdings in Music which will support an outstanding instructional and research program in Music at Rice and which will serve as an important resource for the Houston cultural community.

The Woodson Research Center has also achieved significant growth during the past two years. The most important acquisition has been the papers of the late Sir Julian Huxley, the world-famous biologist who was an Instructor of Biology during Rice's early years. The purchase was made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Heard, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hudspeth, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Masterson, III, Mrs. Hardin Craig Jr., and the Friends of Fondren. More recently the WRC added a major portion of Sir Julian's working scientific library. The Fondren family has deposited a collection of papers, photographs, and memorabilia associated with the careers of the late W. W. Fondren and his wife, Mrs.

Ella A. Fondren. In other activity the Walter G. Hall papers were processed and offer an important insight into contemporary Texas political history. Finally, Dr. Douglas Mitchell has provided funds for the acquisition in honor of his wife, Dolores Welder Mitchell, of a rare and important eighteenth-century Spanish edition of Buffon's *Histoire Naturelle*.

In recent years use by both Rice and non-Rice patrons of the collection in the Government Documents and Microforms Department has expanded considerably. Aside from being a selective depository for U.S. Government publications, the Fondren is also a depository for NASA, the Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Defense Mapping Agency Topographic Command. Equally important, the Fondren is the only library in this region of Texas and one of the few outside of Washington, D.C. designated as a "Patent Depository." With utility patents from 1962 and design and re-issue patents back to 1843, this collection has become of incalculable importance to corporations and patent attorneys of the Southwest. The department also contains extensive holdings on microform of historical documents, journals, newspapers, and monographs (including the on-going acquisition of all printed books published in America before 1801 and England before 1701). It is my projection that during the next decade this department will become one of the most heavily used in the library as the Federal Government moves rapidly to microforms for their documents as video discs and microchips replace hard copy in selected disciplines.

Ten years ago, the Regional Information and Communication Exchange (R.I.C.E.) was established as a cost recovery information brokerage for the Gulf Coast Region. The operations have been expanded to the point that this department and the Fondren's collection serve a national clientele with a developing international market in Latin America. With access to over 200 computerized data bases, the personnel in R.I.C.E. handle over 20,000 requests annually (a dollar growth of 125% since 1979) and offer document retrieval (mostly from the Fondren collection) and computerized searches, both bibliographical and informational in nature, on such diverse topics as the paper industry, SEC filings, citations to patents issued by the major industrial countries, and oil well production in specified fields of various petroleum companies. Much of this information is the most current and is often unavailable on the printed page.

My greatest personal satisfaction as University Librarian has been to witness the phenomenal growth in membership and activity of the Friends of Fondren Library. Much of this vitality can be attributed to the dynamic leadership of the Friends' officers and directors as well as to an increased awareness on the part of the membership as a whole. With the decision to hire a permanent executive director the organization has begun to realize a structural continuity and cohesiveness previously

not possible. Reflecting this change and new image, the *Flyleaf* has undergone with the help of Information Services a significant facelift in format, content, and graphics. Submitted in competitions to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the publication recently received two awards: an "Achievement" award in regional competition and an "Exceptional Achievement" award in national competition. In addition, the Friends' programs with their varied formats have attracted consistently large crowds.

Also of note has been the important financial support which the Friends have provided for the enhancement of services and the collection. In addition to providing the initial funding for the Fondren's joining the OCLC bibliographic network and more recently the contributions of $10,000 from its operating budget toward the library's purchase of the Huxley papers, the organization has through the gifts and memorials program raised over $65,000 during FY 79-80 for collection enhancement. Finally, the Friends' endowment for books has increased from less than $5,000 in 1979 to almost $75,000. While this record of achievement during the past few years has indeed been spectacular, I project that the organization's future is even brighter and that in the finest traditions of Rice it will continue its important function of focusing attention on the Fondren as a priceless asset to both the Rice and Houston communities.

With this short and all too brief description of recent activities in the Fondren, I would like to return to the question posed by the Rice *Thresher* — "The Library: A History of Neglect?" — and to situate Rice's library in a meaningful national context.

Our society has, generally speaking, a fixation with numbers, and far too often we incorrectly assign absolute rather than relative interpretations and values to the raw data found in statistical compilations. Such an approach does not take into consideration non-numerical factors, and statistical analyses predicated almost exclusively on such absolute values risk putting askew any conclusions. Related to this fixation with numbers is society's tendency to equate bigness with quality.

Far too often, this mentality prevails in any judgments on the quality and effectiveness of the universities and their research libraries in general and of Rice and the Fondren in particular. As academic institutions we are required to furnish absolute, non-interpreted figures to numerous reporting agencies. In the case of libraries, most statistical reports require only such annual information as total expenditures, total number of volumes added, size of the collection, total number of professional librarians, etc. Those compiling these quantitative data then rank in order the institutions involved, and persons using such lists and statistics — including library directors and faculty members — tend to translate such raw data, either consciously or subconsciously, into judgments and evaluations on a library's quality and effectiveness.

The use and presentation of such quantitative information in this manner are patently inequitable and generally meaningless, for they presuppose a striking institutional homogeneity which simply does not exist, either among libraries or among universities. Most of the research libraries in the United States are found in the "mega-universities" which offer anywhere from three to six times the number of doctoral and undergraduate programs as Rice and which support library-intensive professional programs in such fields as Law, Medicine, and Education. At the same time these institutions must maintain in their main and branch libraries sufficient duplicate copies to support a faculty-student community often in excess of 30,000 persons (as opposed to Rice's 4,000); the multi-library campus also must shoulder significant additional personnel costs for services which must be duplicated in each satellite library. As a consequence of the above factors, numerous libraries must dedicate 55-70% of their total budget for salaries.

Generally speaking, neither Rice nor the Fondren fits into the above mold: no monies have to be budgeted for duplicate copies, since the absence of branch and departmental libraries and the relatively "small" campus population generally do not require such purchases; with the library resources consolidated in one building, considerably less personnel is required for maintaining building hours and circulation and reference services (our salaries account for less than 43% of the budget while they are nationally competitive); the academic programs supported are not numerous but are compact and to a large extent inter-related. In effect, because of its almost unique situation among its sister institutions, the Fondren is able to achieve a cost effectiveness while maintaining a level of service comparable to other libraries.

However, if the statistics game must be played, there are other statistics which are more pertinent to any measure of quality and effectiveness of a research library. More specifically, the number of doctoral programs has a significant bearing on the number of monographs and journals to be acquired for the support of research; other meaningful data of importance concern the amount of book dollars spent for each student and faculty member. Likewise, the number of interlibrary loans made from other libraries indicates to what degree the collection is serving the research and instructional needs of the academic community. The tables below, based on 1979-1980 statistics compiled by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), speak to these points and vividly illustrate the effectiveness of the Fondren and the degree of library support given by the Rice Administration:

*Table 1.*
*Institutional Size*

| | FTE STUDENTS | NO. OF Ph.D. PROGRAMS |
|---|---|---|
| Duke (19) | 8,962 | 31 |
| Houston (90) | 20,609 | 24 |
| Johns Hopkins (27) | 6,276 | 43 |
| Rice (94) | 3,534 | 25 |
| Texas (8) | 41,277 | 71 |
| Texas A&M (81) | 29,240 | 64 |
| Tulane (73) | 8,402 | 29 |
| Vanderbilt (64) | 8,520 | 33 |

(The number in parenthesis is the ARL ranking of collection size out of a total of 99 institutions.)

*Table 2.*
*Book and Serial Expenditures*

| | (ARL RANK) | (% OF TOTAL BUDGET SPENT ON BOOKS) |
|---|---|---|
| Duke (L, M) | $2,010,000 (31) | (33.5%) |
| Houston (L) | $1,346,000 (71) | (34%) |
| Johns Hopkins (M) | $1,520,000 (59) | (32%) |
| Rice | $1,116,000 (90) | (40.3%) |
| Texas (L) | $2,880,000 (12) | (30.7%) |
| Texas A&M (M) | $1,659,000 (47) | (41%) |
| Tulane (L, M) | $1,208,000 (83) | (37.8%) |
| Vanderbilt (L, M) | $1,207,000 (84) | (31%) |

(L — includes Law Library; M — includes Medical Library)

*Table 3.*
*Library Expenditures Per Student*

| | BOOK BUDGET | TOTAL BUDGET |
|---|---|---|
| Duke | $244 | $670 |
| Houston | $ 65 | $191 |
| Johns Hopkins | $242 | $757 |
| Rice | $315 | $785 |
| Texas | $ 70 | $226 |
| Texas A&M | $ 57 | $138 |
| Tulane | $143 | $381 |
| Vanderbilt | $142 | $457 |

*Table 4.*
*Total Library Expenditures Per Faculty Member*
*(Texas State Library Statistics)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Houston | $1,073 |
| Rice | $7,113 |
| Texas | $3,449 |
| Texas A&M | $2,123 |

*Table 5.*
*Volumes Added in FY 79-80*

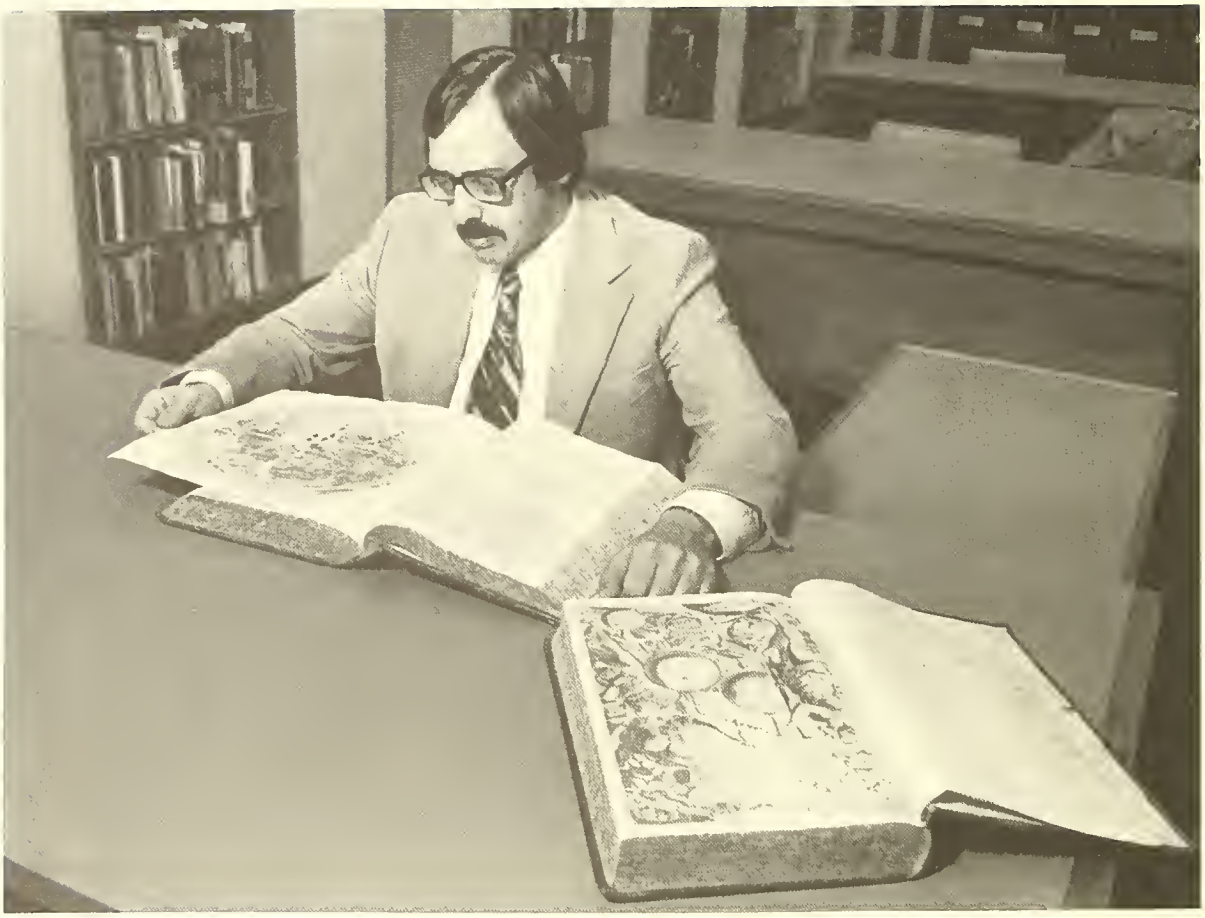
| | | (ARL RANK) |
|---|---|---|
| Duke | 67,742 | (50) |
| Houston | 32,816 | (97) |
| Johns Hopkins | 39,547 | (91) |
| Rice | 39,786 | (90) |
| Texas | 188,132 | (2) |
| Texas A&M | 78,035 | (35) |
| Tulane | 37,536 | (94) |
| Vanderbilt | 39,207 | (92) |

*Table 6.*
*Interlibrary Loans*

| | BORROWED (ARL RANK) | LOANED (ARL RANK) |
|---|---|---|
| Duke | 3,011 (85) | 22,760 (21) |
| Houston | 3,336 (79) | 6,522 (80) |
| Johns Hopkins | 11,177 (6) | 13,128 (48) |
| Rice | 1,628 (98) | 16,407 (42) |
| Texas | 8,556 (12) | 14,706 (44) |
| Texas A&M | 7,700 (20) | 22,681 (23) |
| Tulane | 4,459 (56) | 9,590 (65) |
| Vanderbilt | 2,758 (90) | 4,875 (88) |

In studying the above tables, the following must be pondered: only Rice has no academic or law library (the average book budget for Law in FY 79-80 was $133,000 and for Medicine, $222,000); Rice has the second smallest number of doctoral programs listed above and the smallest number of students; yet, of the above institutions, its book budget on a per capita basis vis-a-vis doctoral programs is third, while for faculty and students it is the highest; the Fondren's annual growth rate in the number of volumes added compares favorably with the other libraries; finally, the Fondren borrows few books on interlibrary loan (it ranks 98th of 99 in the ARL) but loans a significant number (42nd of 99 in the ARL). One last important fact to be considered is that the Fondren has in excess of 1,200,000 microforms (54th of 99), many of which contain material possessed in hard copy by the larger, older academic libraries.

"The Library: A History of Neglect?" The response is an unequivocable "No!" Refinements of raw statistics and an examination of the Fondren's budget, policies, and services in light of Rice's size and research and instructional programs reveal that the Rice Administration's support of the Library has been quite strong over the years. An example of this support and commitment to the Fondren is the fact that during the past five years President Hackerman has given additional appropriations for monographs over and above the budget totaling $300,000 — a sum equal to 30% of budgeted monographic expenditures during the same period. One myth which



*Professor Albert van Helden is studying a lunar map contained in the* Almagestum novum astronomian . . . *by Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1651).*

still persists is that, in preparing the Fondren's budget, the Administration includes for planning purposes projected income from the book endowments and gifts — a not infrequent practice at other academic libraries. I can state categorically that such is not the case; these last funds are dedicated solely for collection enhancement and are used at the discretion of the University Librarian.

Like any division or department in any university or for that matter in any corporation, a library could become an almost bottomless pit for the finite amount of funds available. At Rice, the Fondren fortunately does not assume such a role; rather, it is a part of the University's total commitment to excellence — a commitment in which the Administration with its overall view determines the allocation of resources for the mutual benefit and interlocking relationships of the component parts. In this context, the planning and budgeting of funds within the Fondren are carried out with the idea of providing Rice's primary constituency with quick access to information. At the same time, as an integral part of the Age of Information which avails itself to an ever-increasing degree of automated systems, the Library must prepare itself to utilize such systems in order to bring about better service and to channel funds thus freed up into other areas.

As we progress through the decade of the 1980's, the challenges confronting the Fondren are complex and cannot be met with the simplistic solutions of the last three decades. In the face of inflation and with the promise of new technologies, the Rice library has several programs underway (in addition to maintaining the strength of the collection) which will alleviate budgetary pressures and enhance patron services and accessibility to information. Through membership in the Houston Area Research Library Consortium (HARLiC) — consisting of

Rice, Houston Academy of Medicine, Houston Public Library, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, University of Texas Medical Library at Galveston, and Texas A&M University — as well as in bibliographic networks, the Fondren already participates in programs covering such areas as resource sharing, joint purchases of books, technical processing, and staff development. More recently, the Rice Administration authorized supplemental funding for converting the card catalog into machine-readable form; when completed, this multi-year project will enable us to acquire a computerized card catalog. While the savings in personnel and costs of such a system will be significant (the physical filing of over 200,000 catalog cards annually is but one area where savings will be realized), the online catalog will also enable patrons to produce within minutes complete bibliographies of the Fondren's holdings on any subject or author — a task which can presently take many hours and which is often incompletely performed.

An important, on-going concern of any research library is that of space. Given the current price of construction, it costs approximately $13.00 in space to house each book added to the collection. At the Fondren, there remains enough shelf space under normal criteria for five years worth of growth. However, it should also be pointed out that a random survey by the librarians has revealed that between 30% and 40% of the 1,100,000 volume collection is used only once every twenty years. This situation is especially true and understandable with regard to periodical literature in the Sciences and Engineering, much of which is out-of-date or superceded after ten years. To make more effective use of stack space, the Collection Development librarians have undertaken a program of close proximity, high density storage of infrequently used material.

Related to the question of shelf space, accessibility, and rising book prices is the expanded use of microforms as an alternative to the storage of the printed word in the book. Already developed in the laboratory, the microchip and video discs are emerging on the commercial market as viable alternatives to the book, microfilm, and microfiche. To demonstrate graphically the importance of these two storage media, there exist video discs, each of which can contain 3,000 average-size books — in other words all of the 27,000 books printed in England before 1640 could be placed on seven and a half 12-inch discs, and more importantly, production costs for 1,000 copies of this set would be less than $600.00. When appropriate, the Fondren will avail itself of these new forms.

From the time Miss Alice Dean, Rice's first Librarian, decided to use the Library of Congress classifications for cataloging when all prevailing professional opinion of that era was championing the now cumbersome Dewey Decimal System, Rice's library has been innovative and in the vanguard of the evolution which has taken place in the nation's research libraries. While a number of its sister institutions have tended to play the role of ostrich in resisting change for self-serving purposes or otherwise and in adhering to certain discredited, traditional approaches to librarianship, the Fondren has endeavored to adapt itself to the rapid changes and demands which our society has forced upon the Information Industry. Although I do not subscribe to the notion that a library is the heart of a university — the students and faculty are — I do believe that the library provides the "heart" with its principal source of nourishment. In the face of this most important task, the Fondren Library must continue with the strong support of its Friends and the Administration to respond positively to the demands placed on it by the Age of Information and its accompanying technology. To do otherwise would transform it from a dynamic organization into a relic whose extinction would come as surely as that of the dinosaur.

In the Charter of Incorporation, William Marsh Rice provided for ". . . the establishment and maintenance of a public library and institute for the advancement of Literature, Science and Art . . ." Although it does not feed from the public trough — the operating budget comes from University funds — the Fondren Library is indeed an invaluable resource open for use to the public and devoted as specified by Mr. Rice ". . . to the instruction and improvement of the . . . inhabitants of the City of Houston and State of Texas." Within the context of the overall requirements and resources of the University and its various programs, the Fondren Library will continue to fulfill to the communities within and beyond the hedges Mr. Rice's charge and to provide that excellence for which the University is generally known.

# A FINE BUFFON EDITION ARRIVES AT FONDREN

Lauren R. Brown

The Fondren Library has acquired a twenty-one volume edition of exceptional value and significance, thanks to funds generously provided by Dr. Earl Douglas Mitchell, in honor of his wife, Dolores Welder Mitchell. The multi-volume set is a Spanish translation of Georges-Louis Buffon's celebrated *Histoire naturelle:*

Buffon, Georges-Louis Marie Leclerc, Comte de, 1707-1788. *Historia Natural, General y Particular, Escrita en Francés por el Conde de Buffon, Intendente del Real Cabinete . . . Traducida por D. Joseph Clavijo y Faxardo . . .* . Madrid: En la Imprenta de la Viuda de Ibarra (v. 20-21: En la Imprenta de la Hija de Ibarra), 1791-1805.

The Comte de Buffon, biologist, popularizer of science, and intendant of the Jardin du Roi (now Jardin des Plantes) in Paris, published during his lifetime thirty-six volumes of his massive *Natural history, containing a theory of the earth, a general history of man, of the brute creatures, &c. &c.* Eight additional volumes appeared posthumously.

The work commences with a controversial theory of the creation of the planet earth: Buffon speculated that the earth was originally a solar fragment, detached long ago by the impact of a comet. Such a materialistic view, based on geological observations rather than the study of Biblical texts, resulted in the condemnation of Buffon by contemporary theologians.

The *histoire naturelle* also offers a lengthly discussion of mankind, including evidence obtained by Buffon from contemporary accounts by travelers and explorers of human life and customs beyond the European continent. In this section of his work, the author postulates that climatic conditions are the primary reason for variations in customs, beliefs, physiques, and pigmentations.

Buffon went to great lengths in presenting a detailed account of the animal world. After his volumes devoted to mankind, he curiously ranked the animals in order of domestic importance (with the horse appearing first). In the Spanish edition described above, domestic animals appear in volumes seven and eight; primates are not described until volumes sixteen and seventeen. Although Buffon's classification scheme appears outdated, even humorous by today's standards, his volumes of commentary contain a great deal of accurate description, were well-received by the general public, and resulted in the printing of many editions during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

A Spanish translation of Buffon's work was the natural result of its widespread popularity in Europe. Fortunately, his work began to appear in France shortly before the reign of Carlos III (1759-1788), a monarch who worked to stimulate and promote improvements in Spanish book printing. Largely due to the influence of Carlos III, the late eighteenth century witnessed the beginnings of a flourishing native typefounding industry, improvement in the quality of paper, and the appearance of contemporary Spanish authors in fine editions.

Joachim Ibarra (1726-1785), Court Printer to Carlos III, is known to have produced books hardly excelled by any printer of his century. His edition of Sallust, with parallel Latin and Spanish texts (1772), and his *Don Quixote* (4 vols., 1780) are highly acclaimed examples of his work.

The Spanish edition of Buffon's *Histoire naturelle* features the imprint of Ibarra's widow (and in the later volumes, his daughter). They are typical of his own printed works — a finely balanced typographic style coupled with a careful choice of type, ornaments, ink and paper. The Spanish volumes feature delightful hand-colored plates of various animals depicted against picturesque backgrounds. Also included is an intriguing map titled "Carta del Nuevo Continente," originally printed by Vaugondy in 1749 and copied for the Spanish edition by Juan de la Cruz in 1782. The books are bound in mottled calf with gilt decoration adjoining red and green labels on the spines.

A long description of Buffon and his work is offered in the first volume by the translater, Joseph Clavijo y Faxardo. The set concludes with an index of authors cited by Buffon as well as a concordance and alphabetical index to the animals depicted.

The *Histoire naturelle* is of exceptional importance, not only for its diversity and originality, but because it contributed to the scientific framework within which nineteenth-century naturalists (such as Darwin) began their own study. This fine Spanish edition, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Mitchell, will serve the Fondren in documenting an important era in the history of natural science. It also serves to complement Fondren's existing holdings of the *Histoire naturelle* — a French edition from the eighteenth century and a nineteenth-century English language edition. The twenty-one volumes will be housed in the Woodson Research Center, not far from the Woodson's recently acquired Julian Huxley natural history book collection.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT

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|---|---|---|
| Receipt of membership dues | | $23,022 |
| Less expenditures: | | |
| Staff and student salaries | $ 8,588 | |
| Printing | 5,365 | |
| Programs | 2,582 | |
| Photographic services | 1,346 | |
| Gifts — Huxley collection contributions | 5,000 | |
| Office | 900 | |
| Postage | 479 | |
| Other | 586 | 24,846 |
| Expenditures over receipts | | 1,824 |
| Account balance, July 1, 1980 | | 3,718 |
| Account balance, July 1, 1981 | | $ 1,894 |

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Receipt of gifts | | $67,661 |
| Less expenditures and commitments: | | |
| Book purchases authorized by Librarian | 70,475 | |
| Woodson Research Center | 17,110 | |
| Louis Endowment | 10,000 | 97,585 |
| Expenditures over receipts | | 29,924 |
| Account balance, July 1, 1980 | | 52,787 |
| Account balance, July 1, 1981 | | $22,863 |

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Directors

September 15, 1981

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Jerlyn L. Mardis
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*Four of the Rice Players (Scott McDonald, Hal Kohlman, Nancy Webb, Gary Meade) in one of the dramatic scenes from their production of* Antigone. *Friends of Fondren Library sponsored an evening with* Antigone *in March of 1981.*

# A FRIENDS' DESIDERATA LIST

Collection development librarians in an academic library such as the Fondren are constantly confronted with an enormous range of possibilities in selecting titles for the library. Very often, purchase of reference volumes and long runs of periodicals which would greatly enhance the collection must be deferred in order to acquire even more important titles.

The following desiderata list includes a selection of desired items presently out of the reach of the Fondren Library book budget. Friends who would like to assist the library in acquiring these valuable research volumes may call the Friends of Fondren Office (527-4022).

Congressional Research Service, Inc. *CIS US Congressional Committee Hearings Index, 1833-1969.*

Since the early 1800's, Congressional committees have held hearings to consider legislation, to oversee government operations, and to explore issues of public concern. Although many libraries, including the Fondren, have made an effort to build comprehensive collections of hearings, there has never been a uniform or consistent index to hearings published prior to 1970. CIS is offering a multi-access index to this rich source of information which can be used with Fondren's hardcopy/microfiche collection of the hearings. The complete set: $9720.00.

*U.S. Statutes at Large.* vols. 1-86 (1789-1972).

This extensive set is desirable for two reasons — in order to fill in several gaps in the Fondren's collection and to convert from hard copy to microform, thus saving space in the library. $2386.00 for a microform set.

*Bibliographic Guide to Maps and Atlases.* 1980- .

Published by G.K. Hall, this guide lists publications cataloged during the past year by the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress and the Map Division of the New York Public Library. It is at present the only available separate index to cartographic literature. $95.00 (for the years 1980-81).

*Classica et Medievalia* $1500.00 for a complete set of 28 vols.

*Enciclopedia Dantesca* $300.00 for 6 vols.

*Romanische Forschungen.* 1883- . $5000.00 for vols. 1-78.

Wartelle, A. *Bibliographie historique et critique de' Eschyle et de la Tragédie Grecque, 1518-1974.* $245.00.

The four titles listed above are basic reference and scholarly research tools, highly useful for those engaged in the study of classics, medieval studies, and German literature.

*The Annals of Cleveland.* 7 vols. 1818-1876.

The *Annals of Cleveland* is a massive and perhaps unique project undertaken by the WPA which indexed and abstracted Cleveland newspapers from the mid-nineteenth century. It is now available in 7 vols. on microfiche, and offers a great deal of useful historical information on slavery, cultural life, and contemporary politics in this region of the Old Northwest. $210.00/vol.

*Polk's World Banking Directory (North American Edition).* $81.00.

Chen, Virginia. *Economic Conditions of East and Southeast Asia: A Bibliography of English-Language Materials, 1965-1977.* $45.00.

The two titles listed above are invaluable aids for finding relevant information and citations quickly and efficiently.

Leonardo da Vinci. *Corpus of the Anatomical Studies in the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor Castle.* ed. Kenneth D. Keele and Carlo Pedretti. 2 text vols. and one portfolio box.

A facsimile publication (by Johnson Reprint Corporation/Harcourt Brace Javanovich) featuring the highest standards of scholarship and craftsmanship. The original sheets of Leonardo's work were cleaned and restored before being photographed for this project; after repeated tests for accuracy the photographs were converted into plates and printed in six or more colors on 100% rag paper. The two text volumes are bound in royal blue Nigerian goatskin by Zaehnsdorf Limited, London. The sheets themselves are cataloged in chronological order with commentary by Professor Carlo Pedretti of the University of California, Los Angeles. $8000.00.

# GIFTS TO THE FONDREN LIBRARY

February 1, 1981—
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The Friends sponsor a gifts and memorials program for the Fondren Library which provides their members and the community at large a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides the Fondren a way to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to the Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

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